

harassed the outskirts of Benevento and kept the Pontiff shut up there until October, 1127; he himself subjected the whole contado of the city and turning eastwards crossed the mountains with an army, in which George of Antioch and Christodulus held commands, and forced the submission of Melfi, Troia, and Montescaglioso. At the beginning of winter he withdrew to Sicily.

The Pope, in spite of these events, prepared to overwhelm Roger by a coalition. Leaving Benevento he crossed over the Apennines and entered Troia, which he easily won over by the practical grant of a commune. There (November 11, 1127) he gave the Apostolic blessing to a league which opposed to the self-styled Duke of Apulia the feudal and civic liberties of Apulia. Grimoald, Prince of Bari, Roger of Ariano, Rainulf of Avelino, Tancred of Conversano, grandson of a sister of Guiscard, who styled himself vassal of the Basileus, Geoffrey or Godfrey of Andria, a descendant of one of the earliest Norman chiefs, were the great names of the league.

From Troia, Honorius returned to Benevento and from there to Capua where he spent Christmas. On December 30th he consecrated and invested as Prince of Capua, Robert II., whose father Jordan

II. had died eleven days before. After the ceremony Honorius launched a final excommunication against Roger; a veritable crusade was declared against him with absolution for all who should fall in the holy cause.